

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2818

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, OAS, US, PE

SUBJECT: OAS QUITO MEETING -- PERUVIAN REACTION

REF: LIMA 9577; LIMA 9655

1. GOP AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAVE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE MEAGER RESULTS OF OAS QUITO MEETING. SOME MISCALCULATION WAS APPARENT AS OUTCOME OF MEETING DID NOT MEASURE UP TO PRE-CONFERENCE BALLYHOO AND FLAT PREDICTION BY FONMIN DE LA FLOR OF TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. THE PRESS GENERALLY ATTRIBUTED FAILURE TO LIFT CUBAN SANCTIONS TO THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC STANCE. LA PRENSA CALLED U.S. ABSTENTION A "DECEITFUL GAME REPEATING AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO PRESERVE A SITUATION FAVORING THEIR INTERESTS AT THE COST OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE." FAR LEFT EXPRESO CONDEMMED "MACHIAVELLIANISM OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WHO ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO DIMINISH IT (IN IMPORTANCE)." KISSINGER ALSO ATTEMPTED DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NEGATIVE VOTE AND ABSTENTION; IN THIS HE FAILED, WROTE EXPRESO, "FOR IT IS CLEAR TO ONE AND ALL THAT URUGUAY (NEGATIVE) AND HAITI (ABSTENTION) ARE UNDER THE SAME AMOUNT OF IMPERIALIST INFLUENCE." EXPRESO TERMED THE OAS "A CADAVER" AND CALLED UPON LATIN AMERICAN STATES TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION PARALLEL TO AFRICAN OAU.

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2. OFFICIAL REACTION LED BY PRESIDENT VELASCO WAS ONE OF REGRET THAT A MAJORITY OF OAS STATES IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO LIFT SANCTIONS. "BUT I ALSO THINK THAT THE COUNTRIES WHICH VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY, INDEPENDENTLY, ARE FREE TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA -- AS WE HAVE DONE." VELASCO OBSERVED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ABSENCE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT GIVE IMPORTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA'S PROBLEMS. HE ADDED THAT U.S. DID NOT EVEN HAVE THE "COURAGE" TO TAKE A STAND (PER TAPED VERSION OF NOVEMBER 13 PRESS CONFERENCE). HE DECLARED THAT THE NEUTRAL POSITION OF SO STRONG A COUNTRY IS THE MOST DANGEROUS KIND OF POSITION.

3. FONMIN DE LA FLOR OBSERVED TO THE PRESS IN QUITO THAT OAS MEETING OUTCOME DEMONSTRATED THE PRECARIOUSNESS AND WEAKNESS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND THE URGENT NEED TO RE-STRUCTURE OAS. GOP FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE SO FAR PRIVATELY ECHOED DE LA FLOR'S PUBLIC COMMENTS, SOME ALSO MENTIONING NEED FOR AN ALL LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO REPLACE OAS.

4. IN SUM, THE INITIAL REACTION OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRESS IS ONE CRITICAL OF THE U.S. AND SUGGESTIVE THAT THE OAS MUST BE RE-STRUCTURED ALONG LINES GOP HAS PROPOSED IN OAS COMMISSION TO REFORM INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

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